

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for use to check potatoes or similar items, said apparatus comprising:
 - a feeding device (2) for advancing the potatoes in a plurality of ~~rows~~, a rows;
 - a conveying device (13) adapted to receive the rows of potatoes from the feeding device (2) and advancing them while maintaining the row ~~structure~~, a structure;
 - a camera (42, 43) with associated image processing means for recording and evaluating each individual potato on the conveying device (13), ~~and ; and~~
 - a sorting device (31) controlled by the image processing means, said sorting device being adapted to sort the potatoes, characterized in that the conveying device (13) comprises a plurality of substantially horizontal rollers (14-24), the axes of rotation of said rollers extending parallel to the advance direction (12) of the potatoes, that the rollers (14-24) are rotatably mounted in a support frame (25) and connected with a first driving device (29) for rotating ~~them~~ the rollers, said rollers each independently being additionally displaceable in parallel forwards and backwards in a substantially straight line extending in a vertical plane, said plane comprising the axis of rotation of each roller, and inclining ~~somewhat~~ upwards, seen in the advance ~~direction; and~~ direction and that the rollers (14-24) are connected with a second driving device (27) adapted to confer a reciprocating oscillating movement to each roller along said line.
2. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the

rollers (14-24) are each independently associated with second driving devices (27, 28).

3. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rollers (14-24) are provided with a high-friction surface, ~~such as longitudinal notches~~ surface.

4. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rollers (14-24) are provided with a high-friction surface, ~~such as longitudinal notches~~ surface.

5. (new) Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the high-friction surface comprises longitudinal notches.

6. (new) Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the high-friction surface comprises longitudinal notches.

7. (new) Apparatus for use to check potatoes or similar items, said apparatus comprising:

a feeding device for advancing the potatoes in a plurality of rows;

a conveying device adapted to receive the rows of potatoes from the feeding device and advancing them while maintaining the row structure;

at least one camera with associated image processor for recording and evaluating each individual potato on the conveying device; and

a sorting device controlled by the image processor, said sorting device being adapted to sort the potatoes, wherein the conveying device comprises a plurality of substantially horizontal rollers, the axes of rotation of said rollers extending parallel to the advance direction of the potatoes, the rollers being rotatably mounted in a support frame and connected with a first

driving device for rotating the rollers, said rollers each independently being additionally displaceable in parallel forwards and backwards in a substantially straight line extending in a vertical plane, said plane comprising the axis of rotation of each roller, and inclining upwards, seen in the advance direction, the rollers being connected with a second driving device adapted to confer a reciprocating oscillating movement to each roller along said line.

8. (new) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the rollers are each independently associated with second driving devices.

9. (new) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the rollers are provided with a high-friction surface.

10. (new) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the rollers (14-24) are provided with a high-friction surface.

11. (new) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the high-friction surface comprises longitudinal notches.

12. (new) Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the high-friction surface comprises longitudinal notches.